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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6197
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC, IS

SUBJECT: VISIT TO BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY ON JAN 22.
1. CONOFF KERR VISITED THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY AT
DIMONA ON JAN 22, 1980. BLACK HEBREW LEADER, BEN AMI
CARTER, NOW APPEARS RESIGNED TO NOT RECEIVING ANY
REPORT FROM THE GLASS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY CONDUCTED
IN DECEMBER 1978. CARTER STATED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO
MOVEMENT OF ANY TYPE BY THE GOI WITH RESPECT TO RESOLVING
THE IMMIGRATION STATUS OF THE MEMBERS OF HIS COMMUNITY.
BLACK HEBREWS IN THE DIMONA AREA CONTINUE TO BE EMPLOYED
IN TEMPORARY LOW-PAID JOBS IN THE CITY. MEMBERS OF THE
COMMUNITY IN ARAD (ESTIMATED AT 200 INCLUDING WOMEN AND
CHILDREN) CONTINUE TO HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN FINDING
ANY TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT DUE TO WHAT CARTER DESCRIBES AS
THE HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF THE ARAD LABOR OFFICE. THE
ESTIMATED 200 MEMBERS LOCATED AT MITZPE RIMON HAVE A
FORMAL CONTRACT WITH THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE
GARDENING AND SANITATION SERVICES FOR THE CITY. THIS
PROVIDES PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT FOR MOST OF THE COMMUNITY'S
MALE MEMBERS.

2. CARTER STATED THAT DR. BAYARD RUSTIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE

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BLACK AMERICANS FOR SUPPORT OF ISRAEL (BASIC) IS
SCHEDULED TO VISIT DIMONA DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH.
ACCORDING TO CARTER, DR RUSTIN IS CONCERNED WITH THE
COMMUNITY'S IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS VIZ-A-VIZ ISRAELI
AUTHORITIES AND IS MAKING THIS TRIP SPECIFICALLY TO VISIT
DIMONA.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED IF DR. RUSTIN
IS PLANNING A TRIP TO ISRAEL IN MARCH AND, IF SO, WHETHER
HE WILL BE VISITING DIMONA. LEWIS
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY JL DATE 8/8/81

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

AS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

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